

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ACTIVATES EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM FOR WINTER WEATHER
Orders DOT, Emergency Management and Other Agencies on Alert for Winter Storm

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley activated the State Emergency Response Team today to respond to dangerous conditions that are predicted from a mix of snow and freezing rain forecast to hit North Carolina Thursday. He also urged citizens across the state to prepare for the storm and exercise caution.

“The weather may look okay for some when they head out tomorrow morning, but the system is forecast to move over the state during the day and could cause dangerous driving conditions and power outages by lunch,” said Easley. “We do not want a repeat of what happened two years ago when people were surprised by the weather at midday and were stranded for hours on highways.”

Weather forecasters predict snow to begin in the mountains early tomorrow morning, moving across the state and turn to freezing rain. Accumulations of ice, especially in the Triad and Triangle areas, could be as much as one-quarter inch, enough to cause tree limbs and power lines to fall. Utilities across the state have crews in place to make repairs if power outages occur.

The N.C. Division of Emergency Management has coordinated with local emergency agencies, especially in the western and central parts of the state, to open shelters in the event that becomes necessary.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has made the following preparations:

- Nearly 5,000 employees and 2,700 pieces of equipment including heavy trucks with plows, motorgraders and front-end loaders, are treating bridges and highways.
- Crews are treating bridges, overpasses and major highways with salt to help prevent icing.
- The department has 300,000 gallons of salt brine on hand and 150,000 tons of salt.

The N.C. State Highway Patrol has additional troopers to handle calls for service and crashes. Motorists should be aware that black ice on the roadways is possible when moisture covers the roadway and temperatures are near or below freezing.

People are urged to contact emergency officials only for emergency situations. Please do not call 911 or the Highway Patrol for road conditions. The lines must remain clear for emergency calls. To check road conditions, please visit www.ncdot.org.

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